



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: September 8, 2005

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

Chair Harvey Klein (GSL) called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. Dave Speis (Accutest) asked that the minutes be corrected to clarify that the collection of MDL data for the NJQL database does not need a comment period because the ability to collect MDL data is part of N.J.A.C. 7:18. The rulemaking for the use of the NJQL data will have a comment period. A motion was made by Dave Speis to accept the August meeting minutes and the minutes were approved.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the ACPL's have been sent out. Dr. Mike Miller (NJDEP-OQA) stated that there may be a letter sent out from the department announcing that certification for methods that utilize Freon as the solvent (EPA 413.1, EPA 418.1) would be discontinued. He stated that labs would need to use the alternate methods such as EPA 1664A and the GC methods for petroleum hydrocarbons. Dr. Miller stated that last year a proposal was published in the Federal Register to discontinue the use of Freon by December 31, 2005. Dave Speis (Accutest) provided information from the annual meeting of the New York and Pennsylvania laboratories in Valley Forge where Bill Telliard from EPA's Office of Water stated that a final rule on discontinuing the use of methods that employ Freon is expected to be published in September's Federal Register.

Stu Nagourney (NJDEP-OQA) stated that one lab is certified in New Jersey for Chromium (VI) speciated isotope dilution MS (SIDMS). The first lab is Kingston Research Laboratory at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa. He stated that this method is beginning to be requested for site remediation projects.

PT program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that notices of suspension for the DW PT study had been sent to a dozen labs because no data had been submitted to the department. She informed the committee that there was a problem with their data submission to APG. The data was not sent to NJDEP because the electronic form was not filled out correctly. On the APG form every line must be checked to send data to NJDEP. If you need APG to resend data, you must have APG send a disclaimer with your data stating that the lab has viewed the results before the state.

Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) informed the committee that NSI and RTC have submitted the required VHS data for the current WP PT study problem with the study. At the time of this meeting, approximately one quarter of participating labs had not submitted any results for the June WP study. The cutoff date for data submission is September 23rd. Ms. Werner

reminded labs to make sure to use the NJ parameter codes. Ms. Werner stated that payment is due for the SHW study. The SHW PT samples will ship by the beginning of October.

NELAC / INELA Update: Dr. Mike Miller (NJDEP-OQA) reported that the EPA's Office of Water has been financing NELAC and the office plans for NELAC to be financially independent within four years. The training and technical assistance proposals have been issued. Dr. Miller stated that the 2004 standard cannot be used and that the next new standard will be the 2008 standard. Dr. Miller reported that the AA committee is official and that the minutes are posted on the NELAC website. Dave Speis (Accutest) stated that INELA will purchase ISO standards to use in its standards development.

NJQL's: Stu Nagourney (NJDEP-OQA) stated that there should be a production version of the database by the first week of October. The rule will not be finalized until a new director is in place. Workshops at community colleges are planned to help explain the use of the NJQL database. Any lab that holds New Jersey certification will be required to submit mdls. He believes that submission of data will start in 2006.

Bioassay: No report

Sludge (Biosolids): No report

Communications and OQA Website: Harvey Klein (GSL) informed the committee that he has been requested to give an ELAC update during the WEF seminar to be held on October 18th-20th in Tinton Falls. The laboratory seminar will be held on Thursday, October 20th.

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water / PWTa: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) reported that a new radionuclides form is in development, which should be discussed at the roundtable. She stated that there is a lot of misunderstanding about which tests are required to be performed. She states some states mandate that all testing be done to end the confusion and make sure the appropriate tests are performed.

Sharon Robinson (NJHSS) asked how many individuals from her organization may attend the roundtable. Linda suggested 3 or 4 people could be accommodated. Harvey Klein (GSL) asked if a compilation of PWTa testing result would be published soon. Ms. Bonnette stated she did not expect that would be accomplished until after the changes in management positions. She stated that there should be two new Bureau Chiefs appointed, one for Water Quality and one for Data Management.

The BSWD roundtable is still scheduled for October 28th, 2005.

Site Remediation: No report

New Business

Lab Certification Fee Proposal: Stu Nagourney (NJDEP-OQA) informed the committee that a draft of the lab certification fee proposal has been sent to Joe Aiello. He stated that

part III has been divided into categories. The methods have been divided into three tiers of difficulty and the fees for certification would escalate with increasing difficulty of the test method.

There were not any other new issues. The meeting adjourned at 10:47 A.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 AM on October 13, 2005 – 4th Floor Conference Room.

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